



Over 100 Years of Education, Conservation & Advocacy

# Audubon Society of Rhode Island

July 28, 2020

Representative Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02908

**Re: Audubon Society of Rhode Island Supports Article 5, Question 2 – Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond**

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island supports Article 5, Question 2 - Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond and urges passage.

Audubon conserves over 9,500 acres for open space and wildlife habitat. Many of our refuges are open to the public and have well maintained trails for hiking and nature study. During these excruciating months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Audubon has kept our refuges open while encouraging our guests to wear masks and socially distance on the trails. We understand the healing power of a walk in the woods, the peace and happiness that comes when you see wildlife and hear birds calling in the distance. Our refuges have been very busy and we have received notes of thanks from many of our guests. These difficult times have reasserted our need to get outdoors, breathe fresh air and experience the wonderful green spaces in Rhode Island.

The \$69 M investment proposed in the 2020 Beach, Clean Water, and Green Bond will provide essential funding for Rhode Island's green outdoor spaces. We fully support state investments in beaches, parks and campgrounds (\$40M), local recreation projects (\$4M), natural and working lands (\$3M), clean water and drinking water (\$15M) and municipal resiliency (\$7M). These bond funds will benefit communities throughout the State.

Audubon respectfully encourages passage of this bond so it can go to the Rhode Island voters for consideration.

Sincerely,

Meg Kerr, Senior Director of Policy